REMARKS

The application contains claims 1-38. Claims 29-38 are new. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and allowance of the application.

This submission is being made in connection with a Request for Continued Examination, filed herewith. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all rejections and examination of the claims newly presented. Applicants further petition for a four month extension of time (running from the date of the April 2, 2001 petition decision) for response. All fees associated with this filing may be charged to our deposit account no 11-0600.

Claims 4-7 have been amended to traverse the outstanding § 112, second paragraph rejections, using language intended to maintain the scope of these claims unchanged. No surrender of subject matter is intended by any amendment to these claims.

THE CLAIMS ARE PATENTABLE OVER CHANG.

Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 11, 14-15, 22, 24-25 and 28 stand rejected as anticipated by Chang, et al., U.S.P. 6,025,877. A claim is anticipated only if each and every claim element claim is found in a single prior art reference. MPEP § 2131. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections because Chang does not teach or suggest all elements of the pending claims.

Consider claim 1. It recites steps of coding a video object as video object layer data and video object plane data, assigning a priority to the video object layer data of each video object and encoding the video object layer data, the video object plane data and the priority data. Chang does not teach or suggest this subject matter.

Chang discloses a system in which video objects are identified from an input frame sequence (Col. 1:25-28) and coded according to a predetermined coding pattern, for example IPBBP (Col. 1:58-62). Chang calls one unit of this coding sequence a

"group of pictures" or GOP. The Examiner believes that this GOP corresponds to the claimed video object layer. Chang also discloses a prioritization system. Specifically, he states:

> the sequence initiating part 21 is used for segmenting the content-based *video objects*, determining the transmission priority ranking, and compensating the background *objects* [Col. 3:13-17].
>
> because the *video objects* are transmitted according to the transmission priority, the important information of the scenes is fully received [Col. 3:44-46].

Chang's discussion of priorities extends only to his video objects, not to his groups of pictures.

Chang's system does not prioritize *video object layers*; his discussion of prioritization is limited to *video objects*. He does not disclose, for example, that frames from the group i+1 could be prioritized to be more or less important than the frames from group i. He only states that coded data for one video object (say, video object A) are prioritized over the coded data for another video object (video objects B or C). Thus, even if the Examiner were correct that a GOP somehow could be read to correspond to a video object layer, Chang's disclosure still would not anticipate claim 1 because he shows no prioritization of the GOPs. The rejection to claim 1 (and to dependent claims 4-5, 7, 11, 14 and 28) should be withdrawn.

The dependent claims recite other elements that are neither taught nor suggested by Chang. Claim 11 recites that a priority is assigned based on the importance of information carried in the video object layer data. Again, even if a GOP could correspond to a video object layer, Chang does not suggest that an entire GOP can be discarded based on an assigned priority. Chang discloses only that transmission priority rankings can be determined considering the importance of the *video objects*, not *video object layers*. Chang, Col. 3:65-67. Claim 12 recites that *video object layers* having a high priority are encoded prior to video object layers having a low priority. Again, Chang discloses something different: *video objects* having a high priority may be transmitted prior to those having low priority. Chang does not disclose ordering transmission priority among video object layers.

Applicants believe that the Office Action's analysis of <u>Chang</u> blurs the distinction between video objects and video object layers. Claims 1-14, however, are clear. Video objects are coded as video object layers and video object planes and priorities are assigned to video object layers. When this distinction is maintained, it becomes clear that <u>Chang</u> does not anticipate claims 1, 4-5, 7, 11 and 14. They should be allowed.

Independent claim 15 also stands rejected as anticipated by <u>Chang</u>. <u>Chang</u> does not teach or suggest all elements of claim 15 and, therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn. Specifically, as discussed, <u>Chang</u> does not teach or suggest video object layers having first and second priorities, the second priority lower than the first. <u>Chang</u>'s prioritization applies only to his video objects. Accordingly, <u>Chang</u> does not teach or suggest all elements of claim 15. The rejection to claim 15 and to dependent claim 22 should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 24-25 also stand rejected as anticipated by <u>Chang</u>. Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections. Claim 24 recites video objects being coded as video object layers and video object planes, with priorities being applied to the video object layers. Claim 25 recites video objects being decoded from video object layers and video object planes, with priorities having been assigned to video object layers. <u>Chang</u> does not disclose this subject matter. He discloses only prioritization of video objects, not video object layers. These claims are not anticipated by <u>Chang</u>.

Because <u>Chang</u> has no disclosure to teach or suggest prioritization among video object layers, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1, 4-5, 7, 11, 14-15, 22, 24-25 and 28.

THE CLAIMS ARE ALLOWABLE OVER DAS.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-13, 20-21 and 26-27 stands rejected as obvious over <u>Das</u>, et al., U.S.P. 5,896,176 and <u>Chang</u>. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to

modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicants' disclosure. MPEP § 2142.

Das does not teach or suggest all features of the pending claims. For example, he does not teach assigning a priority to a video object layer as recited in claim 1. To support the obviousness rejection, the Office Action points to Das, Cols. 11:55-63 and 12:42-49 as providing disclosure of this feature. This is incorrect. Das's disclosure is specific. He states that regions of interest can be selected for "*objects* for scalable compression." See, Col. 12:43-47. He says nothing about video object layers, much less assigning priorities to them. As noted above, Chang also does not teach or suggest use of priorities for video object layers. Accordingly, this combination of art does not render the subject matter of claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-13, 20-21 or 26-27 obvious. Applicants, therefore, request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of these claims.

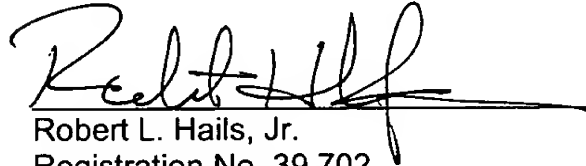## NEW CLAIMS 29-38 ALSO RECITE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER.

Newly presented claims 29-38 recite additional subject matter not found in the cited art. For example, claims 29 and 34 recite that VOPs are assigned to VOLs "based on information content of the VOPs." Chang discloses something very different, his GOPs are formed from a predetermined coding pattern (e.g., IPBBP). Chang, Col. 1:57-62. Claim 30 recites specific syntax elements for identifying the priorities among video object layers. Claims 31 and 32 recite techniques for assigning specific types of VOPs to video object layers. And claim 33 recites a transmission format for a VOP. None of the cited references disclose any syntax for communication of priorities. These claims also are patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

All claims are allowable. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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